

# Official Minutes for Webb County Commissioners Court Special Meeting

Monday, November 21, 2005 at 1:30 PM

(Approved 01-09-2006)

- Item No. 1      Call to order by Judge Louis H. Bruni  
Let it be remembered that a special meeting of the Webb County Commissioners Court was held at 1:00 p.m. at the regular meeting place with the following members present to wit:

Louis H. Bruni	County Judge
Frank Sciaraffa	Commissioner, Pct. 1
Judith Gutierrez	Commissioner, Pct. 2
Jerry Garza	Commissioner, Pct. 3
Cindy Cortez-Brunner	Commissioner, Pct. 4

Thus constituting a quorum, the Commissioners Court proceeded to act upon the Agenda as posted in the meeting notice of the 18<sup>th</sup> of November 2005. Present also were Ms. Nora Elia Prado, Deputy County Clerk representing Mrs. Margie Ramirez Ibarra, Ex-officio Clerk of the Commissioners Court, various officers and others interested in the business of the Court.

- Item No. 2      Roll Call – Margie Ramirez Ibarra, Webb County Clerk

- Item No. 3      Pledge of Allegiance – Led by all

- Item No. 4      Public Comment

Mr. Jesus M. Sanchez was present to address Item No. 6. He stated that the county is in need of a secondary water source. He stated that the City of Laredo is growing and feels that the \$700,000 is a good investment. He stated that the monies are being put to a good use and not to pay for a private project like the city did with the arena.

Mr. Rudy Lerma was present to address Item No. 6. He stated that he was in favor of this project due to the need to find a secondary water source. He stated that it was a lot of money but that the sooner the project was started, the better. He stated that there are a lot of water wells in the area that have produced water for many years. He stated that the city is not doing much to look for a secondary source of water. He stated that the longer the county waits to begin construction, the more expensive it will be.

Mr. C.Y. Benavides, III, was present to address Item No. 6. He stated that it was important for the court to know the pertinent details regarding this issue. He stated that in studies performed in 2002, 2003 and 2004, water wells tested near the proposed well site showed high levels of fecal chloroform bacteria, salinity, high

arsenic levels and other pollutants. He stated that he was not against the project but wanted to make sure that this project was done correctly and was not just a waste of taxpayers' monies. He offered the use of a well that has already been drilled on his family's property that is located in an area similar to the proposed site. He offered the court use of this well for preliminary testing at no charge. He stated that it sits between the two largest drainages in Webb County.

Item No. 5      Discussion and possible action to CANVASS ELECTION results for the November 8, 2005 **SPECIAL CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ELECTION PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 67, TEXAS ELECTION CODE.**

Mr. Oscar Villarreal, Interim Elections Administrator, stated that he submitted his election reports to the court. He stated that there were a total of 6,159 vote made as well as two provisional ballots which were later disqualified and not counted. Cmr. Gutierrez advised Mr. Villarreal that she did not receive any information. Mr. Villarreal stated that he submitted the information to the County Judge's staff for distribution but that he would get additional copies and present this item when he has that ready.

Item No. 6      Workshop on pros and cons regarding the water well at the Carrizo Wilcox Aquifer with discussion and possible action to award Bid No. 2005-77 "Water Well Project" to Richardson & Dunn, Inc. d/b/a J & S Water Wells for Test Drilling and Production Well on Webb County School Lands to a base depth of 2,800 feet for an approximate amount of \$680,687 for the Engineering and any other matters incident thereto.

Mr. Tomas Rodriguez, County Engineer, stated that since this will be located on county school lands, any monies used to benefit the school lands can be received but that a separate department would need to be created to be in charge of the proposed programs. Mr. Rich Keiser, J & S Water Wells president, was present to address the court. He stated that approximately 100 million gallons of water are being pumped from the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer every day. He stated that most of the development has been done north of Webb County. He stated that once the test hole has been drilled, samples will be taken every 70 feet to determine the quantity and quality of the water. He stated that as per the current data, the water quality meets borderline drinking water standards. He stated that the county would need to decide whether to develop the water or mix it with the city's water to bring the water meet the drinking standards. Mr. Tomas Rodriguez, County Engineer, stated that the water is there and the only thing that is up in the air is the quality. He stated that the water may need to be treated but that the quality and quantity would need to be known before deciding which next step to take. Judge Bruni stated that the court will do the project on its own on the school lands. He stated that a secondary source of water is necessary. He stated that the cost of \$680,000 was a small amount considering the benefits. Cmr. Cortez-Brunner inquired whether there were any other sites considered for this project. Mr. Tomas Rodriguez, County Engineer,

stated that the land located on Hwy 359 is not conducive since the current well can only pump 35-40 gallons per minute due to the contamination. Cmr. Gutierrez stated that this special meeting served a good purpose. She stated that the project needed to be explained to the taxpayers and felt that it was accomplished.

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Garza seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Cmr. Gutierrez thanked Mr. Rodriguez for this time and dedication to this project.

Item No. 5

Discussion and possible action to CANVASS ELECTION results for the November 8, 2005 **SPECIAL CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ELECTION PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 67, TEXAS ELECTION CODE.**

Mr. Oscar Villarreal, Interim Elections Administrator, was present to address the court. He stated that 6,159 voters went to the polls, including two disqualified provisional voters. He stated that only 6,157 were counted. He stated that he received several calls from residents of the Quad Cities area who felt they were left out during the consolidation for this election. He advised them that in Constitutional Amendment elections, polling sites were consolidated.

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Cmr. Gutierrez wished a Happy Thanksgiving to everyone. She stated that she was thankful for her family, good health and for being given the opportunity to represent the people of this community.

Judge Bruni wished a Happy Thanksgiving to everyone. He stated that this was the time for everyone to come together as a family and give thanks for everything we have.

Item No. 7

Adjournment

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to adjourn. Cmr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.